

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 7076

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING: AIRCRAFT SHELTER  
FUNDING

REF: STATE 252209

SUMMARY: SINCE UK HAS AGREED TO CONSTRUCTION OF AIRCRAFT SHELTERS FOR 70 PCT OF US IN-PLACE AND DUAL-BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE UK, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WASHINGTON INSIST THAT NATO INCLUDE FUNDS FOR THESE AIR SHELTERS IN INFRASTRUCTURE SLICE XXVII. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS REMAINDER OF US GOAL FOR 100 PCT SHELTER PROTECTION FOR TACTICAL AIRCRAFT REINFORCING EUROPE, THE ALLIANCE WOULD HAVE TO EXPEND OVER 50 PCT OF SHAPE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS ON AIRCRAFT SHELTERS. THIS WOULD MEAN A DELAY IN OTHER PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE NATO INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, FORWARD STORAGE SITES, ETC. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WASHINGTON CONSIDER SPREADING RECOUPMENT FOR REINFORCEMENT AIRCRAFT OVER SLICES XXVIII-XXXIV, REQUIRING ABOUT 20 PCT OF SHAPE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING PER YEAR AFTER SLICE  
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XXVII. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON APPROVAL OF MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE UK HAS APPROVED CONSTRUCTION OF AIRCRAFT SHELTERS FOR

70 PCT OF US IN-PLACE AND DUAL-BASED AIRCRAFT BASED IN THE UK. MISSION BELIEVES THAT ADEQUATE JUSTIFICATION EXISTS FOR INCLUSION OF \$124M FOR THESE AIRCRAFT IN INFRASTRUCTURE SLICE XXVII SINCE SHAPE HAS LONG RECOGNIZED REQUIREMENT, PRIORITY IS HIGH, WE CAN IMPLEMENT ON TIME (IF USAF PREFINANCES DESIGN), AND COSTS WILL INCREASE IF DELAYED BEYOND SLICE XXVII. MISSION WOULD SUGGEST, THEREFORE, HARD US LINE ON PROGRAMMING IN SLICE XXVII IRRESPECTIVE OF POTENTIAL ANNUAL FUNDING LIMITATIONS PROPOSED BY NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND/OR ALLIES. ALLIANCE SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH THIS KNOWN REQUIREMENT BEFORE INFLATION FURTHER INCREASES COST. US SHOULD PUSH ALLIANCE TO SPEND APPROVED IAU 400 M IN SLICES XXVI-XXVIII AND THEN INSIST THAT ALLIANCE PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR SLICES XXIX AND XXX.

2. CURRENT US PLANS CALL FOR USE OF AIR FORCE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM FUNDS OVER NEXT 5 YEARS TO PREFINANCE 100 PCT SHELTER PROTECTION FOR APPROXIMATELY 875 US AIRCRAFT REINFORCING ACE THROUGH M PLUS 30 :

FY 75	FY 76	FY 77	FY 78	FY 79
\$62M	\$98M	\$133M	\$77M	\$67M

OF THE TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM OF IAU 400 MILLION FOR THE 1975-79 PERIOD, ONLY SOME IAU 300 MILLION ARE AVAILABLE TO SHAPE FOR PROGRAMMING AFTER DEDUCTING US SPECIAL PROGRAM, SACLANT PROGRAMS, AND CONTINGENCY FUNDS. THUS, SHELTERS FOR US AIRCRAFT IN THE UK AND US FOLLOW-ON AIRCRAFT WOULD CONSUME MORE THAN 50 PCT OF SHPE AVAILABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS. THIS WOULD MEAN A DELAY IN OTHER PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE NATO INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, FORWARD STORAGE SITES, ETC..

3. IF SHAPE INFRASTRUCTURE SLICES AVERAGE IAU 100 M EACH, SHELTERS FOR US IN-PLACE AND DUAL-BASED AIRCRAFT IN THE UK WOULD REPRESENT APPROXIMATELY 40 PCT OF SLICE XXVII. MISSION WOULD PROPOSE TO NOMINATE RECOUPMENT FOR 70 PCT SHELTERS FOR RAPID REACTOR AIRCRAFT (\$70M) FOR SLICE XXVIII AND STRATEGIC RESERVE AIRCRAFT  
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(\$70M) FOR SLICE XXIX; THIS WOULD MEAN ABOUT 20 PCT OF SHPE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS PER YEAR.

4. REALIZATION OF ABOVE PROGRAM WOULD PROVIDE FOR REINBURSEMENT OF \$140 MILLION FOR FY 75 AND FY 76 PREFINANCED SHELTERS FOR RAPID REACTOR AND STRATEGIC RESERVE AIRCRAFT. IF ALLIES APPROVE A CONINUING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM FOR SHAPE AT THE IAU 100 LEVEL AND APPROVE ELIGIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL FOLLOW-ON AIRCRAFT, MISSION RECOMMENDS SPREADING RECOUPMENT OF REMAINING \$300 MILLION OF FUNDS SHOWN IN PARA 2 OVER SLICES XXX THROUGH XXXIV. THIS WOULD MEAN APPROXIMATELY 20 PCT OF INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS FOR SHELTERS EACH YEAR.  
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